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No. 54

House of Representatives

The House met at 2 p.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. HARRIS).

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
April 16, 2012.

I hereby appoint the Honorable ANDY HARRIS to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

JOHN A. BOEHNER,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Patrick J. Conroy, offered the following prayer: Dear Lord, we give You thanks for giving us another day.

At the beginning of a new workweek, we use this moment to be reminded of Your presence and to tap the resources needed by the Members of this people's House to do their work as well as it can be done.

We ask that You send Your Holy Spirit upon them, giving them the gifts of patience and diligence. With all the pressures for action that cry out each day and with all the concern and worry that accompanies any responsibility, we pray that they might know Your peace, which surpasses all human understanding.

May Your voice speak to them in the depths of their hearts, illuminating their minds and spirits, thus enabling them to view the tasks of this day with confidence and hope. All this day and through the week, may they do their best to find solutions to the pressing issues facing our Nation.

May all that is done this day be for Your greater honor and glory.
Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. KINZINGER) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. KINZINGER of Illinois led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

ENERGY PARTNERSHIPS IN SOUTH CAROLINA

(Mr. WILSON of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, as I traveled across the Second Congressional District of South Carolina over the last constituent workweek, I became increasingly aware of a growing relationship between the Savannah River National Laboratory and one of their regional research universities, the University of South Carolina.

These two entities are working together to address key national energy needs in nuclear, hydrogen, fuel cells, environmental science, advanced sensors, modular nuclear reactors, and alternative energy, in addition to other areas of great national interest. The two institutions anticipate the future formation of a joint technology commercialization initiative involving the Darla Moore School of Business at the University of South Carolina to build new technology-based businesses and create jobs.

I look forward to these joint collaborations with the Savannah River National Laboratory, and I am confident their success will be of great benefit to South Carolina and our Nation.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September the 11th in the global war on terrorism.

Rest in peace, Medal of Honor recipient Army Master Sergeant John F. Baker, Jr., of Columbia, South Carolina, and Rock Island, Illinois, for his heroic service in Vietnam, who was buried at Arlington National Cemetery today.

URGING CONGRESSIONAL ACTION ON STUDENT LOANS

(Mr. COURTNEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, unless this Congress acts, in 75 days, the interest rate for the Stafford student loan program will explode for 8 million college students. Unless Congress acts, the rate will jump from 3.4 percent to 6.8 percent. At a time when student loan debt now exceeds credit card debt, added interest costs for a student using Stafford will increase between \$5,000 and \$10,000.

It is unconscionable that the Republican leadership will not bring up H.R. 3826, a bill I've introduced with 119 cosponsors to lock in the lower rate. Incredibly, the chair of the Subcommittee on Higher Education spoke last week in North Carolina and said: I have very little tolerance for people who tell me they graduate with \$200,000 of debt or even \$80,000 of debt.

Really? It is a sad statement when today's Republican Party turns its back on a program that helps millions of Americans fulfill their dreams and that is named after Republican Senator Robert Stafford of Vermont.

Stop the rate hike. Bring up H.R. 3826 for a vote, and keep the American

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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